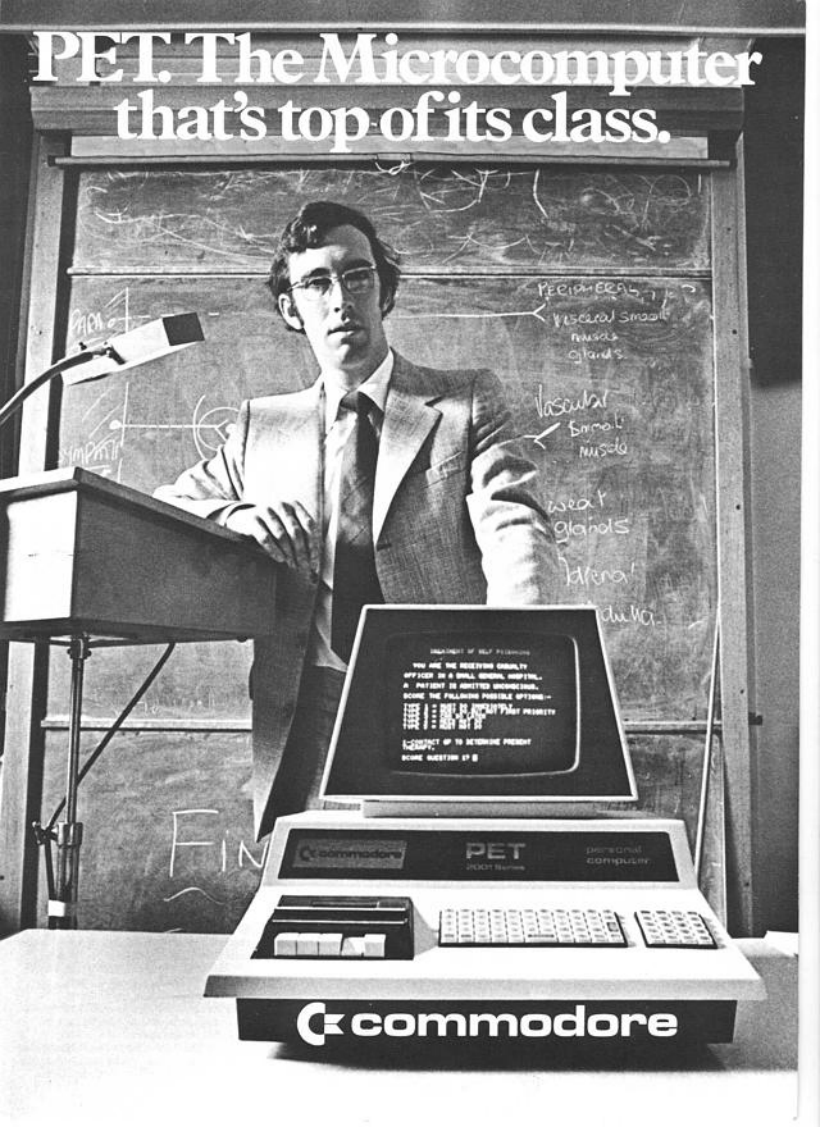
PET. The Microcomputer that's top of its class.



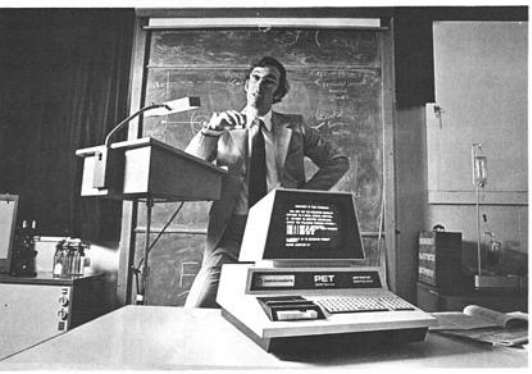
Millfield School
Considering the growing importance of computers, it is not surprising to find that a progressive school like Millfield is introducing pupils to the subject as early as the 3rd year, and also offering Computer Studies as an option at 'O' level.

Said Mr Peter Fry (Head of Computing):– *"We chose the Commodore PET because it is robust and easily portable. It stands up well to school use and can be taken home by teachers to prepare lessons more thoroughly.*

Above all, we chose PET because it is simple to use. It takes the mystery out of computing and allows pupils to learn quickly how to program and solve problems. PET is already so popular that booking a session is harder than booking a squash court. Naturally we have ordered more PET equipment to meet this enthusiasm."

Strathclyde University
Despite expenditure cuts generally in education, Professor Andrew Colin of Strathclyde University has managed to justify the purchase of 21 more PET computers. He now has a total of 50 PETS which will enable the university to teach computer programming to as many as 1,000 students next year. In addition to first year science students, Professor Colin plans to arrange voluntary courses for arts students. And during the vacation he is also running courses for businessmen.

As Professor Colin put it: *"Our teaching laboratory equipped with PET computers has proved a great success. It allows us to run large-scale programming courses at a very low cost. These courses require a minimal amount of staff supervision and are particularly popular among the students. In fact, we allow access to the PETs until 10 o'clock in the evenings to cope with the demand."*



The University Department of Anaesthesia at Glasgow Royal Infirmary
In addition to its use as a teaching aid, the PET is also used in hospitals in conjunction with medical equipment (to monitor patients on ventilators, for instance). So a knowledge of how to work with a PET is in itself an important contribution to a medical student's education.

Doctor Gavin Kenny (lecturer in Anaesthesia) says this of the PET: *"In teaching, the PET has proved itself invaluable by generating enthusiasm and improving the students' understanding of clinical problems. We have linked our PET to video equipment to take students individually through recorded lectures, posing questions and inducing participation. In the practice of medicine we are continually discovering new applications for PET. And the ease with which it can be mastered is outlined by the fact that nurses have taught themselves how to program it in their spare moments. So that PET can be in use 24 hours a day."*

With already over 10,000 units in the country, the Commodore PET has quickly established itself as Britain's Number 1 microcomputer. PET is also by far the most popular choice in the field of education. Here are some reasons why:

Technological Superiority
PET embodies the latest advances in microcomputers, utilising many components made by Commodore's own silicon chip company: MOS Technology.

Value for money
PET offers outstanding value for money. This is made possible by Commodore's 'vertical integration.' With Commodore making the chips, assembling the boards, manufacturing the metal case, and handling worldwide distribution, there are significant cost savings which Commodore can pass on to you, the end-user.

Versatility
PET is a professional machine in the widest sense. It utilises the industry standard IEEE/48 bus and a user programmable 8-bit parallel port for talking to the outside world. This not only allows PET to monitor scientific experiments, but also to link up directly to a comprehensive range of laboratory, control and monitoring equipment.

Easy to operate
Commodore has ruthlessly pursued PET's original design concept – to create a computer which devotes some of its power to assisting the user with his programming. Before purchasing your microcomputer try writing and altering a few lines of program on a number of different machines. You'll find that PET's unique screen-editor is more powerful and easier to use than editing facilities on machines 10 times the price!

Simple to master
PET's Basic interpreter is fully interactive – reporting programming mistakes in English, rather than obscure code. This makes a surprising difference to the time necessary to develop a program.
Commodore's Extended Basic command set remains consistent throughout the whole range of PET computers. The same Basic commands are available on the 4K, 8K, 16K and 32K PET and all programs can be saved and loaded from cassette tape or floppy disk. So you don't have to learn a new version of Basic if you expand the system.

Software readily available
With several thousand PET computers already in use in schools, colleges and universities all over the country, a great deal of educational software is available for the PET from many sources.
The Schools Council Computers in the Curriculum project, directed by Bob Lewis of London's Chelsea College, is developing a comprehensive package of programs for use in secondary education. And teachers of computer science will be interested in Professor Andrew Colin's course in Basic Programming used at Strathclyde University, which is now available from Commodore.

Expandability
The Commodore range is expandable: the 4K machine can easily be upgraded to 8K of RAM memory. And all machines: 4K, 8K, 16K and 32K can easily be enhanced

by the addition of a dual floppy disk unit with 340,000 characters of backing store. In fact up to 8 floppy disk units can be handled by a single PET.

Extensive graphics
The Commodore PET has a comprehensive preprogrammed set of graphics characters. These facilitate graph plotting, animations and visual displays. All these special graphics can be reproduced on the Commodore 3032 printer.

The 3032 printer has the additional facilities of programmable depth of line feed, and user programmable characters, enabling the user not only to make an exact 'hard copy' of PET's screen, but also high resolution 'dot by dot' graph plotting.

Mobility
Processor, memory, keyboard and visual display unit are housed in a robust steel casing which can easily be carried from room to room or transported on the back seat of a car. In addition, the 4K and 8K machines contain a built-in cassette deck for storage of data and programs.

PET, a machine for the future
With 20 years of experience distributing and manufacturing state-of-the art technology products behind it, Commodore is well placed to lead the "second industrial revolution."
Many manufacturers are developing PET compatible peripherals, such as Cluster, developed by Nestar Systems Incorporated, enabling up to 30 PET computers to share a common disk store, or MTU's continuous graphics board.
With Commodore pursuing a dynamic policy of hardware development, and educational user groups, and software exchanges being continually formed, the discriminating purchaser, choosing a Commodore PET, can be assured that his initial investment will be well supported and will continue to give him good value for money for many years to come.

commodore

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